Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

Each year our local Rotary chapter invites us to nominate two outstanding Year 6 children to receive the Rotary Citizenship Awards. The awards recognise students whose sense of citizenship, duty, community and generous service to others are obvious.

We are pleased to announce that Penelope Fisher and Lachlan Ormrod are our 2016 Rotary Citizenship Award recipients. Congratulations Penny and Lach. They will receive their awards at a special dinner hosted by Rotary on Wednesday 30 November.

Congratulations

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Leesa Sternbeck as our Uniform Shop Coordinator. The opening hours of the Uniform Shop are 8.15 - 9.45am Monday to Friday. Congratulations Leesa.

Playground Design

Mrs Amanda Perell and Miss Almi Toth joined a landscape designer last week to begin the process of designing our school’s new playground. The playground will be located in the garden areas behind K Blue and opposite K Gold and K Green. The playground will feature creative, imaginative play spaces. It will be partly funded by the P+F Fundraising Levy.

School Captains’ Speeches

Beginning at 10.00am on Tuesday 22nd November, our 2017 School Captains’ Speeches will be held in the Parish hall.

2017 Student Parliament

The three younger students (from the current Year 4) who will sit on our 2017 Student Parliament have been elected. Congratulations Isaak B, Jye S and Ashleigh J. The quality of the shortlisted finalists’ speeches (Jye, Maddison, Layla, Chloe, Isaak and Ashleigh) was simply outstanding.

Please Join Us

Our end of year Thanksgiving Mass is at 9.15am on Friday 9 December. Our Christmas Carols are on Monday evening, 12 December commencing at 6.00pm and our annual K-6 Awards Ceremony is at 11.00am on Wednesday 14 December. We warmly invite your presence at these occasions.

Year 7 Orientation Days

Both MacKillop Catholic College and St Brig-id’s have their Year 7 Orientation days this Friday at their respective schools.

Kind Regards,

K Williams

Kevin Williams
Principal

Upcoming Events

- Mackillop and St Brigid’s Year 7 Transition Friday 18 November
- School Captains Speeches 10.00am Tuesday 22 November
- Kinder Transition 3 9.30am Wednesday 23 November
- World Teachers’ Day Liturgy 10.15am Friday 25 November
- Kinder Transition 4 9.30am Wednesday 30 November
- Rotary Citizenship Awards Wednesday 30 November
- Thanksgiving Mass 9.15am Friday 9 December
- Christmas Carols 6.00pm Monday 12 December
- K-6 Awards Ceremony 11.00am Wednesday 14 December
World Teachers’ Day
Next Friday 25th November, we celebrate the wonderful teachers who make up our school and say thank you to them for the nurturing support, humour and genuine dedication they provide daily. A huge thank you to Catherine Hay who is coordinating the liturgy, the class parents and other parent volunteers who are also helping to organise this. The liturgy will be held in the church at 10.15am. Parents, we would love for you to join us as we celebrate the gift of teachers.

Advent Liturgies
Next week we begin our Advent Liturgies. These will be held every Thursday afternoon for the remaining weeks of the year at 1.50pm in the church. Next Thursday 24th November Kinder and Year 2 will lead our liturgy. Year 1 and Year 3 will lead our Week Two liturgy on Thursday 1st December, Year 4 will lead our Week Three liturgy on Thursday 8th December and Year 5 will lead our Week 4 liturgy on Thursday 15th December. We hope you can join us as we prepare for the Lord this Advent Season.

Christmas Appeal
Once again, St Mary’s will be supporting our local community with the St Vincent DePaul Christmas Food Appeal. The concept for this year’s Christmas Appeal is ‘Rebuilding Strength’, with a focus on showcasing the ‘heroes’ Vinnies assist. The Appeal will highlight the thousands of Australians who personify heroism. They are the women who find the courage to flee from abusive households, men who find the strength to overcome disadvantaged upbringings and parents who make incredible sacrifices to keep their children safe. These are the people who the St Vincent de Paul Society, assist each and every day. Your child has been asked to bring in an item from a class list of items. We ask each child to please bring in this item to place in their classroom basket. All of these baskets will be collected by our local St Vincent DePaul representatives during the last week of school. Once again, our Year 5 and 6 Mini Vinnies children will lead this initiative. As always, we thank our community for their generosity and compassion. A huge thank you to the many children and families who have already brought in items for our Christmas Hampers.

Liz Hartge
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

CLASS PARENTS 2017
We are currently seeking expressions of interest from parents to be on our Class Parent Team for next year. If you would like to volunteer to be a point of contact with and for other parents and would like to help out your child’s class teacher whilst contributing to the greater good of our school then please complete the slip below and return it to the school office by Friday November 25th. The Class Parent Team meets with Mr Williams once a term and contributes positively at both class and whole school levels. This is one of the many ways you can become more involved and enjoy 2017 with other parents who like to help our school. We require one parent per class.
We hope to have the 2017 Class Parent Team finalised and listed in the newsletter in early December.

Expression of Interest - Class Parent Team 2017
I would like to express interest in joining the Class Parent Team next year.
My Child/ren will be in: (Please circle) Kinder Year 1 Year 2 Year 3 Year 4 Year 5 Year 6.

My name is (Please Print)________________________________________
Best contact phone number________________________
Signed________________________________
The way in which adults respond to children’s conflicts have powerful effects on their behaviour and skill development. If children haven’t yet developed the necessary social and emotional skills to work on their own solutions to conflict they need the guidance of parents, carers and the adults around them. The important adults around them can help children to see conflict as a shared problem that can be solved by understanding both points of view and finding a solution that everyone is happy with.

The best way to help them is NOT to simply tell them what to do, but to act as a ‘coach’ and help children find a solution that suits everyone. When children work out conflict this way they learn valuable skills that they can use to resolve conflict more effectively, even when you are not around.

At St Mary’s we believe it is important to restore relationships that may be damaged by conflict by taking a restorative approach when helping students deal with issues. Thirteen years of schooling is a long time for both children and parents to spend together so maintaining positive relationships is very important.

Please take a look at the KidsMatter article, Resolving Conflict for more information about actively supporting children to develop skills for dealing with conflict.

From Our Office

Reminder: Family Registration Forms for 2017 were sent home to all families in Week 4. We ask that you complete and return the form to school by 21st November 2016. Both parents must sign the back of the form for it to be valid. The information on this form is used to apply sibling discounts for 2017. No discounts will be applied unless a completed form is received by the due date.

Thank you
Julie, Jacqui & Leesa
Canteen News

Canteen Volunteer forms for 2017 were sent home last week. If you are able to lend a hand next year, please complete and return the form by Friday Nov 25th. Thank you.
Donna Falzon